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## What is the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship?

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is a merit-based program established in 1988 and is administered by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. The annual award amount for the freshman year is up to \$6,700. The award amount for the sophomore, junior and senior years is up to \$7,500 per year. Half of the Scholarship is awarded in the fall term and half in the spring. The Scholarship must be applied directly toward the cost of attendance, less any other gift aid received. Assuming continued eligibility, Palmetto Fellows may receive scholarship funding for a maximum of eight consecutive terms of full-time study toward the first degree or ten consecutive terms of full-time study toward the first approved five-year at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina.

## Purpose of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship:

RECOGNIZE the most academically talented high school seniors in S.C.;

ENCOURAGE academically talented students to attend college in the State; and

RETAIN talented minority students who might otherwise pursue studies outside the State.

## Initial Eligibility Requirements:

### General Requirements:

In order to be eligible to apply for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, a high school senior must also meet all of the following general eligibility requirements:

- 1) Be enrolled in an approved SC public or private high school, an approved SC home school program of study or a preparatory high school located outside the State while a dependent of a legal resident of South Carolina;
- 2) Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) at the time of high school graduation **and** be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes at the time of high school graduation;
- 3) Be seriously considering attending, have applied, or have been accepted for admission to an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina;
- 4) Certify that he/she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year by submitting a signed affidavit to the college financial aid office; and
- 5) Cannot be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance in the same academic year.

### Academic Requirements:

**For Early Awards**, the guidance counselor/school representative must submit the application and required documentation to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by **December 15<sup>th</sup>**. If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is

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**For Late Awards**, the guidance counselor/school representative must submit the application and required documentation to the CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday. High school seniors are eligible apply if they meet one of the following sets of academic requirements:

1. Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT)<sup>1</sup> by the June national test administration of the senior year; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA<sup>2</sup> on the SC UGP at the end of the senior year; and, rank in the top six percent<sup>3</sup>
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**Student's taking the June test administration date must ensure that their scores are received by the CHE by July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Students taking the June test administration date **must** have their guidance counselor/school representative complete the electronic application by the deadline date if they wish to be considered. Guidance counselors/school representatives must also submit all other required documentation by the June 15<sup>th</sup>

***If I attend high school out-of-state, am I still eligible to apply?***

Yes. Students who attend out-of-state preparatory high schools may be eligible to apply if they are residents of South Carolina. These students are personally responsible for contacting the Commission about the application process and must adhere to the established deadlines. ***In order for out-of-state students to use their current rank as one of the eligibility criteria, the guidance counselor from the out-of-***

***Higher Education. Upon review, the Commission will determine if the out-of-state high sc grading system is comparable to the current SC UGP.***

The current rank from the out-of-state high school may be used if the grading scales are determined to be comparable. If the grading systems are determined non-comparable, then the current rank cannot be used. In this case, out-of-state students must: 1) use the alternate criteria (score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on ACT

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***How do I qualify if I attend a high school that has a small class size (less than twenty students)?***

For those schools/home school associations that have a policy on rank and the policy has been determined to be in compliance, the top two students shall be considered regardless of whether they rank in the top six percent of their class, if they also scored at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT) and earned a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC UGP. If a student does not rank number one or number two in the class, he/she may also qualify by scoring at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) and earning a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGP (without any regard to class rank). Students must meet all other eligibility criteria.

***What is the application process?***

Guidance counselors/school representatives are provided application materials through the SC Guidance Counselor Listserv. Guidance counselors/school representatives identify eligible students in their high schools who meet the criteria of the scholarship. The guidance counselor/school representative must submit an electronic application through CollegeNet by the established deadline date. Additionally, guidance counselors/school representatives must submit the required documentation to CHE on all eligible students and be in receipt of CHE by the established deadline date. If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday. The application information is provided to the guidance counselor/school representative ***only***.

The assistance of counselors is required to ensure that eligible students are given the opportunity to apply by providing the application information to these students. Application materials must be submitted to the



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Earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at your home institution for graduation purposes by the end of each academic year (**beginning with fall, including spring and ending with the immediately succeeding summer**);

Earn at least 30 nonremedial credit hours for graduation purposes by the end of each academic year (**beginning with fall, including spring and ending with immediately succeeding summer**). Exempted credit hours (i.e., AP, IB, CLEP), credit hours earned before high school graduation (i.e., dual enrollment courses) and credit hours earned the summer term immediately following high school graduation cannot be used to meet the annual credit hour requirement for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship;

Maintain South Carolina residency as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes;

Cannot be in default or owe a refund/repayment on any state or financial aid by submitting a signed affidavit to your college financial aid office;

Certify that you have never been convicted of any felonies and have not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year by submitting a signed affidavit to your college financial aid office; and



***How do I transfer my Palmetto Fellows Scholarship from one eligible college to another eligible college within South Carolina?***

You will need to complete the In-State Transfer Form, which is available online at: [www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/PalmettoFellows/PFS\\_TRANSFER\\_FORM.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/PalmettoFellows/PFS_TRANSFER_FORM.htm) Transfers must receive prior approval from the Commission on Higher Education. Palmetto Fellows cannot receive funding for more than eight terms at all eligible colleges and the continued eligibility requirements must be maintained.

If a student transfers midyear, it is the responsibility of the student to complete the In State Transfer Form. It is also the responsibility of the student to make arrangements to cover tuition and fees at the transferring institution until confirmation of the transfer request has been completed by CHE.

***If I graduate early from college (before using the eight terms of Palmetto Fellows Scholarship funding), can I use the remaining funds toward degree or a graduate degree?***

No. In the event of early graduation, the Scholarship is discontinued and all remaining terms are forfeited. Additionally, the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship cannot be applied to a second degree or to

~~any other degree.~~  
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## **What is the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement?**

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement was established during the 2007 legislative session and is a merit-based incentive for Palmetto Fellows to major in mathematics and science. Palmetto Fellows are not eligible for the Enhancement during their freshman year. Palmetto Fellows may become eligible for the Enhancement beginning with their sophomore year and continuing through their senior year. The annual award amount for students receiving both the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement cannot exceed \$10,000 (total amount of combined funds from \$7,500 Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and \$2,500 Enhancement) per year. Half of the Enhancement is awarded in the fall term and half in the spring.

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annual 30 credit hours for continued eligibility for the underlying Palmetto Fellows Scholarship: 1) Exempted credit hours (i.e., AP, IB, CLEP); 2) credit hours earned while in high school (dual enrollment); 3) credit college enrollment in fall, and; 4) Pass/fail courses with a \_\_\_\_\_ only.

***What mathematics and science majors are eligible for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement?***

A list of declared majors by institution \_\_\_\_\_ website at:  
<http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/LIFE/Directives/Math&SciencePrograms.xls>

***What eligibility requirements must I meet to continue receiving Enhancement funds?***